

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 90-99, now withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected inventions, without prejudice to their future examination and consideration in continuing or divisional applications.

Please rewrite claims 72, 83-85 and 87 as follows:

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72. (amended) A conjugate[,] comprising a synthetic[ally-made] polymeric carrier having a maximum of 100 monomeric units selected from [at least one] the group consisting of nucleotides[, nucleotide analogues] and amino acids, the conjugate containing 1-10 hapten molecules and 1-10 marker groups or solid phase binding groups, wherein the hapten molecules and the marker groups or solid phase binding groups are [different from each other and are] coupled to reactive side groups at predetermined positions on the polymeric carrier[, wherein the polymeric carrier is prepared by synthesis on a solid phase] and wherein the carrier is non-immunologically reactive when the monomeric units are amino acids.

83. (amended) The conjugate as claimed in claim 72, wherein the polymeric carrier contains [at least one of a positive charge carrier and a negative charge carrier] a charged group selected from the group consisting of positively charged groups and negatively charged groups.

84. (amended) The conjugate as claimed in claim 81, wherein the marker groups are luminescent metal chelates and the polymeric carrier contains [at least one of a positive charge carrier and a negative charge carrier] a charged group selected from the group consisting of positively charged groups and negatively charged groups.

85. (amended) The conjugate as claim in claim 81, wherein the marker groups are fluorescent groups and the polymeric carrier has a[n essentially] helical structure.

87. (amended) The conjugate as claimed in claim 86, wherein the hapten molecules are selected from the group consisting of pharmacologically active substances, hormones, [hormone metabolites,] vitamins and neurotransmitters.

Please add the following new claims:

100. A conjugate comprising a synthetic polymeric carrier having a maximum of 100 monomeric units selected from the group consisting of nucleotides and amino acids, the conjugate containing 2-10 hapten molecules and 1-10 marker groups or solid phase binding groups, wherein the hapten molecules and the marker groups or solid phase binding groups are coupled to reactive side groups at predetermined positions on the polymeric carrier.

101. A conjugate comprising a synthetic polymeric carrier having a maximum of 100 monomeric units selected from the group consisting of nucleotides and amino acids, the conjugate containing 1-10 hapten molecules and 1-10 marker groups or solid phase binding groups, wherein the hapten molecules and the marker groups or solid phase binding groups are coupled to reactive side groups at predetermined positions on the polymeric carrier and wherein the reactive side groups coupling the hapten molecules and the reactive side groups coupling the marker groups or solid phase binding groups are alike.

102. A conjugate comprising a synthetic polymeric carrier having a maximum of 100 monomeric units selected from the group consisting of nucleotide analogues, the conjugate containing 1-10 hapten molecules and 1-10 marker groups or solid phase binding groups, wherein the hapten molecules and the marker groups or solid phase binding groups are coupled to reactive side groups at predetermined